

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - June 24, 2009

Page 1

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Those present were: Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Mike Niederquell, Wade Trim; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit Authority; Dave Geiger, MDOT Planning (voting for Susan Richardson); and Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Augustyniak, seconded by Gaydos, to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2009 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Stoner was not present at the time of this agenda item, therefore no update was given.

Addition to Minutes:

Majerczyk stated that there would be two additional projects added to Agenda Item #6 for TIP Approval: The Bay Metro Projects and the Mackinaw Road Project for the Road Commission.

Letter from Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Update:

Engelhardt discussed the Chamber of Commerce letter and said that he felt that BCATS should make some sort of formal response in the form of a letter. Engelhardt felt that the response letter needed to provide some direction for the Chamber of Commerce. It's important to let them know that BCATS can only support the issues and projects that are in the BCATS area. BCATS has no jurisdiction over State projects or projects that are located outside the BCATS cities and townships. Engelhardt would like to craft a letter for BCATS review and approval that would give some direction to the Chamber of Commerce to help them with their projects, while still explaining the confines of BCATS. It's important that we point them in the right direction, even if the only support we can offer is guidance. Engelhardt would like to provide the Chamber of Commerce with some documentation to help guide the Chamber such as maps or sample forms.

Gaydos mentioned that he spoke with the MBS Airport Manager and he was unaware of any project involving Garfield Road on the behalf of the airport, therefore it appears to not be a priority project for the airport. Niederquell said that he had also spoken with the MBS Airport Manager who had told him the same thing that he told Gaydos. Niederquell further stated that he spoke with Doug Bell of SMATS and Saginaw doesn't see the urgency with the Garfield Road Project.

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Stoner, to direct Dave Engelhardt to write a letter of response to the Chamber of Commerce that will provide the Chamber of Commerce with some clarification of BCATS jurisdiction and gives some direction to the Chamber and help point them in the right direction for their listed projects. In addition, prior to Dave Engelhardt sending out the response letter to the Chamber of Commerce it must be reviewed and approved by the BCATS members. Motion Passed.

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - June 24, 2009

Page 2

Public Hearing - Various TIP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Dale Majerczyk, Chairman of BCATS to discuss the various TIP Amendments. Engelhardt provided everyone present with a handout of the requested TIP Amendments. The projects discussed included: The ***PE for the I-75 Project*** from Prevo Road to Bay/Arenac County Line; the ***M-13/South Huron Road Project*** for the Bridge over the Kawkawlin River; the ***M-247 Project*** at Wheeler Road; the ***I-75 Project*** at the M-84 interchange funding increase and funding source change for PE; the ***Bay Metro ARRA Projects*** which include Replacements of two (2) buses, one 1987 and one 1994, using ARRA rural transit funds, the addition of three (3) Mini-Hybrid conversion kits using ARRA urban transit funds and three (3) buses to the replacement list with 5309 funding; inclusion of the ***Mackinaw Road ARRA Rural Project***. Discussion ensued.

The Public Hearing on the various TIP Amendments, was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 1:56 p.m.

Approval of Various TIP Amendments:

A motion was made by Augustyniak, seconded by Begick, to approve the various TIP Amendments as listed and described. Motion Passed.

New 2011-14 TIP Approval Time Line:

Engelhardt wanted to give everyone a handout of the adjusted time line for the 2011-14 TIP provided by MDOT. Engelhardt would like for BCATS to approve the 2011-2014 TIP by the April Policy Committee meetings in 2010. BCATS would still need to program projects for 2012, '13, & '14. At the last MTPA Director's Meeting everyone was notified that in 2011, if there are no funding changes, the State will no longer be able to match Federal Funds. As a funding fallback option, several agencies asked if some of these funds that can't be matched by the state would be released to the local agencies so they have the opportunity to come up with the match and use those funds on a local project. MDOT has at least discussed that possibility, but no commitment or serious possibility of that happening exists at this time.

ARRA Funds Estimates:

Based on \$1,000,000 being redistributed to the State of Michigan, it is estimated that BCATS would receive approximately \$9,000. By Mid-July we will have a better idea of what will be spent for the ARRA Projects. BCATS wants to be ready to take advantage of any additional funds that might come our way, so it's important to have our projects ready.

BCATS Public Participation Plan Proposed Updates:

Engelhardt discussed the BCATS Public Participation Plan, specifically the section relating to public notice of meeting. With the decrease in days that the local newspapers publishes a printed paper, it's important to re-visit and revise the BCATS Public Participation Plan. Engelhardt provided members with a draft copy of some proposed language he would like to see included in the BCATS Public Participation Plan. Engelhardt would like to remove the reference to the number of days prior to meetings any notices must be published. He would also like to take out any specific references to the Bay City Times out of the BCATS Public Participation Plan to allow for flexibility in the future and in order for BCATS to accommodate changes in the news media industry. Engelhardt currently intends to keep posting the public notices in the Bay

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - June 24, 2009

Page 3

City Times since it is a local paper of significant circulation when compared to other options. Discussion ensued. All agreed a change was needed and approved the corrections to go out for the required 45 day public review period.

BCATS FY2010 Unified Work Program (UWP):

Engelhardt stated that the UWP need to be approved and submitted in order to get reimbursement. Engelhardt provided members with a handout of the draft UWP. While the text portion of the UWP is basically completed for review, the financial information is not yet complete. Due to time constraints it's important to move the process along and have the UWP approved. Currently, Engelhardt is waiting for the indirect cost numbers from the Finance Department in order to complete his portion of the UWP. The Previous Transportation/GIS intern left, and Engelhardt does not plan to hire another person as funds are very tight. Basically, the UWP will remain the same with the addition of language dealing with freight and commercial traffic counts. BCATS participation in the MDOT Travel Demand Model improvement process. BCATS financial contribution of \$5,000 to a 2010 Digital Ortho project, and continued involvement in the regional trail efforts. Engelhardt also discussed to possibility that BCATS may not have enough "in-kind" match for the PL funds. Options were discussed including the option of using a membership fee based approach to the implementing agencies in future years. This option would cost Essexville \$1,588, Bay City \$15,600, and the BCRC \$16,000. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Augustyniak, to approve the BCATS FY 2010 Unified Work Program (UWP) as written, with the addition of the aforementioned financial figures when received from the Finance Department , finalized flexible match determinations and minor project involvement changes. Motion Passed.

MI Travel Counts II Update:

Engelhardt said that he received information from his last MTPA Meeting that the MI Travel Counts II project would be taking place this year. This is a follow up to the MI Travel Counts I project in which a very vigorous travel counts and surveys were conducted. The MI Travel Counts II is a continuation of the first project in which sample individuals from the original study will be looked at to determine what changes, if any, have happened. The results of the MI Travel Counts II should be available March, 2010.

Non-Motorized Update:

Westbury provided members with an update of the Great Lakes Regional Trails group, explaining that their priority was to connect Bay County, Midland County and Saginaw County trails. Currently there are some right-of-way issues that are preventing trail connectivity between Bay County and Saginaw County. It is a goal of this group to have the three counties connected within the next 10-15 years.

Project Updates:

The **Wilder Road Project at State Park and Henry** will be completed and open by July 8, 2009. There were no archeological findings for the **Harrison Street Project** and road construction could start next week. The **Marquette Ave Connector Project** will be let July, 10th and begin construction in Mid-August. Gaydos received the initial report from SHPO and is still reviewing the information. The Independence Bridge Project will be completed and the bridge will re-open today, June 24th. Gaydos told

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - June 24, 2009

Page 4

BCATS that he would have to perform **Scour Analysis on the Liberty Bridge** which will cost approximately \$5 Million. The City of Bay City doesn't have the funds to cover this project so Gaydos has been talking with MDOT to see what can be done. With the lack of road funds, Gaydos believes he may have to resort to reverting some city local streets to gravel because the funds don't exist to repave the road. BMTA is in discussion with Meijer to develop **Park and Ride Lots** at the two existing Bay City stores. For the **Borton Road Project** Majerczyk has been talking with contractors to get the PE and CE done. The GI meeting has to be held by December 1st and the project is expected to start in the spring of 2010. This is a mill and fill project that also requires the replacement of ramps to meet ADA requirements, some spot curve replacements and coordination with the Rail Road for the crossing. The **Woodside Avenue Project** is going to court as the sub- contractor is suing the prime contractor.

Other/New Business:

Bike Facility and Liability Presentation:

Engelhardt discussed that Jay Reithel sent out an email stating that he would like to make a presentation to the local transportation groups regarding Bike Facilities and Liabilities. Engelhardt planned to contact Doug Bell with SMATS to see if Bay and Saginaw Counties could coordinate a time to view the presentation.

FEMA Flood Maps Update:

FEMA held a meeting to discuss the changes and updates to the new FEMA Flood Maps on Tuesday, June 23rd. The purpose of the meeting was to review the changes and to discuss possible township ordinance changes that will need to be implemented with the new map information. Templates for ordinance changes are located on the FEMA website. Engelhardt stated that Bay County had put together mapping based on the proposed changes. While these maps are not totally accurate, they can help townships view the overall picture. Engelhardt said that he would be willing to discuss any of these changes with the townships as new flood areas have been added.

Aerial Photography:

Engelhardt mentioned that he would again be looking for support from the townships to have a fly over to get new aerial photography next year.

As there was no further business, the June 24, 2009 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul